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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Wells et al. ) Group Art 1627  
Appl. No. : 09/981,547 )  
Filed : October 17, 2001 )  
For : METHODS FOR RAPIDLY )  
IDENTIFYING SMALL )  
ORGANIC MOLECULE )  
LIGANDS FOR BINDING TO )  
BIOLOGICAL TARGET )  
MOLECULES )

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: United States Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 2327, Arlington VA 22202, on

February 13, 2002  
(Date)

Ginger R. Dreger, Reg. No. 33,055

Examiner : Unknown

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
PO Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Please amend this application in the following aspects.

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims:

-- 58. (New) A method of identifying a ligand less than 2000 daltons in size, that binds covalently to a chemically reactive group at a site of interest on a target protein to form a target protein-ligand conjugate, comprising detecting the formation of said target protein-ligand conjugate by mass spectrometry analysis.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the ligand is less than 1500 daltons in size.

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